

pg 4-13

Bill 5174

Hello I am Victoria Scott Executive Director Michaela's garden project I am here today to bear witness to the circle of life and the taking route of the seed.

In 2010 I met Dennis Chapman my friend and mentor. Dennis the founder of Michaela garden project shared many memories of his niece Michaela with me. It is through his vision Michaela's gardens bloom today.

I must share with you that Michaela's tenderness, kindness, and passion to help others is best seen in eyes of those who tend her seeds today. Michaela's four O 'clocks are In the hearts of many. They transcend all Barriers unity communities and giving family's leisure time in the garden. They dwell in convalescent homes hospitals churches schools parks and have inspirational life of their own.

Today I share a poem written by Linda Colangelo. It was read at the dedication ceremony at Michaela's Garden held at the Killingly library last summer.

In closing I invite you on behalf of Michaela and the children of CT. The majority who have no voice, to inspire and empower them with the passing of this bill naming Michaela's four o clocks the Connecticut state flower for children.

Thank you!

Michaela's Love in Bloom

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Today, we remember Michaela Rose
An angel gone too soon
Yet in her loss, the gardens spring
And offer healing blooms

"Mirabilis Jalapa"

The Latin name for Four O'Clocks
"Mirabilis," like her, means "wonderful"
Oh, the beauty she's unlocked

The trumpets bloom late afternoon
On cloudy days they may not even close
A poignant reminder of the endless joy
That was Michaela Rose

Your spirit, dear girl, is alive and well
And growing every day
You're bringing communities together
In a thoughtful, caring way

Your middle name "Rose," so fitting
Just like a gardener's glove
We have rooted you in our land and hearts
Every flower honors love

We're thinking of you, Michaela
As we watch your Four O'Clocks climb
We're sharing the seeds of hope for you...
One garden at a time

